

Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group  
Division of Integrated Health Systems

---

September 11, 2002

Helene Robinson, Executive Director  
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
Division of Research and Development  
1201 Capitol Access Road  
P.O. Box 2870  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-2870

Dear Ms. Robinson:

I am pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving the State of Louisiana's request for a 2-year waiver program, Models of Excellence-Health Alliance Program for Asthma and Diabetic Pharmaceuticals and Supplies, authorized under section 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (the Act). This approval provides for a waiver of section 1902(a)(23) of the Act regarding Freedom of Choice of Providers. This waiver permits Louisiana to selectively contract with vendor(s) to provide for delivery of pharmaceuticals and supplies via mail to the homes of Medicaid recipients who have diabetes or asthma.

The decision to approve this waiver program is based on evidence submitted to CMS demonstrating that the State's proposal is consistent with the purposes of the Medicaid program and will meet all statutory and regulatory requirements for assuring beneficiaries access to quality health care services while maintaining a cost effective delivery system.

This waiver program will be effective for the 2-year period beginning November 1, 2002, through October 31, 2004. Louisiana may request that this authority be renewed for another 2 years at the end of this 2-year time period. If the State decides to request a renewal of this program, the renewal application must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the expiration date of this waiver, or July 31, 2004.

Please note that the approval is also contingent upon the State arranging for an independent assessment of the waiver program with respect to access to care, quality of services, and cost effectiveness. This independent assessment must be submitted no later than 3 months before the expiration of this waiver authority. The document should be a detailed, comprehensive assessment of the waiver program to cover the 2-year waiver period.

Page 2 – Helene Robinson

I wish Louisiana success in the operation of this program for Medicaid beneficiaries. If you have any questions regarding this waiver approval, please contact Linda Abbott in the CMS Central Office at (410) 786-4662 or Joe Reeder in the Dallas Regional Office at (214) 767-4419.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Pratt  
Director

cc:

Joe Reeder, Dallas Regional Office  
Calvin Cline, ARA, Dallas Regional Office  
Lara Robillard, Office of Management and Budget